

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 124550
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FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM IMMEDIATE
INFO USMISSION USUN NEW YORK PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 124550

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS:PFOR, SW, US

SUBJECT: AMBASSADOR YOUNG'S REMARKS ON RACISM IN SWEDEN

REF: STOCKHOLM 2281

1. RE REFTTEL, YOU SHOULD KNOW THE FOLLOWING BACKGROUND REGARDING AMBASSADOR YOUNG'S COMMENTS ABOUT SWEDEN AND RACISM. ON THE LAST LEG OF HIS AFRICAN TRIP, JOURNALISTS ACCOMPANYING HIM ASKED AMBASSADOR YOUNG TO COMMENT ON THE IMPORTANCE OF RACISM IN INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS. THE AMBASSADOR POINTED OUT THAT RACISM OR ETHNOCENTRISM WAS A CENTRAL POLITICAL FACT IN THIS CENTURY AND THAT NO NATION OR NO PERSON IS IMMUNE FROM IT. WHEN A JOURNALIST ASKED IF SWEDEN WAS NOT IMMUNE, THE AMBASSADOR POINTED OUT THAT
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PAGE 02 STATE 124550

HE KNEW A NUMBER OF BLACKS WHO HAD LIVED IN SWEDEN AND THAT THEY ENCOUNTERED THE SAME PROBLEMS THERE AS BLACKS IN QUEENS. THE AMBASSADOR INCLUDED HIMSELF WHEN HE SAID NO ONE WAS IMMUNE TO RACISM FEELINGS.

2. THE SWEDISH GOVERNMENT'S DECISION TO APPROACH USUN ON AMBASSADOR YOUNG'S COMMENTS WAS BASED ON FRAGMENTARY NEWS-

PAPER REPORTS AND TOTALLY DISTORTED THE CONTEXT IN WHICH
AMBASSADOR YOUNG MADE HIS COMMENTS. YOU SHOULD, THEREFORE,

BE CERTAIN YOU HAVE THE FULL CONTEXT AND SEEK GUIDANCE
BEFORE COMMENTING ON THIS ISSUE OR SIMILAR ISSUES IN THE
FUTURE. VANCE

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Message Attributes

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Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
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Concepts: RACIAL DISCRIMINATION, PRESS COMMENTS, BRIEFING MATERIALS, AMBASSADORS, SPEECHES
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Sent Date: 28-May-1977 12:00:00 am
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